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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Office of the Director

7 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, NSC Ad Hoc Group for NSSM 220

SUBJECT : Possible Scenarios for Arab-Israeli Conflict

1. The scenarios presented here are intended to provide a concept of the possible dimensions of future conflicts. They are illustrative rather than predictive. The actual causes, course, scale and outcome of future hostilities in the Middle East are essentially unpredictable with any degree of precision.

2. The scenarios do not address the overall implications of the Soviet presence in the region nor the scope and depth of Moscow's commitments as a factor in shaping the course of hostilities. The extent and nature of Soviet and American support, or lack thereof, could further alter the scenarios. In addition, Western European states could influence events by efforts at diplomatic intervention. These factors are considered in a separate Intelligence Community contribution to NSSM 220 entitled "The Middle East Situation."

3. The security requirements in other Arab countries will influence the scope of assistance provided to Egypt and Syria in time of war. The recent agreement between Iraq and Iran portends more assistance from Iraq in the event of hostilities in the next few months. We estimate that Iraq would provide two armored divisions and up to 150 aircraft if a new Arab-Israeli conflict occurred in the next few months and this is reflected in Scenarios #2 and #3. The contribution of forces and armaments from other Arab countries is estimated to be about the same as in the October War.

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4. The judgments contained in the drafts of these scenarios were discussed and coordinated by representatives of the Intelligence Community in a meeting chaired by the Assistant National Intelligence Officer for the Middle East. There was insufficient time, however, to effect detailed coordination of the edited texts.

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National Intelligence Officer
for the Middle East

Encl:

Summary of Major Conclusions
Four Illustrative Scenarios

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Approved For Release 2005/08/24 : CIA-RDP80B01495R001000240023-3

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Approved For Release 2005/08/24 : CIA-RDP80B01495R001000240023-3